

WITTE'S MEMOIRS CONTRADICT KAISER

Russian Statesman Records Interview He Had With Emperor on League.

The former German Emperor's proposal for a league of nations, described in his book written with the object of showing that Great Britain was responsible for the world war, excerpts of which were cabled to THE NEW YORK HERALD from Berlin, is definitely challenged and contradicted in the forthcoming memoirs of Count Witte, the Russian statesman, which have been published serially in the London Daily Telegraph. The former German Emperor asserts that he proposed a league of nations consisting of the Triple Alliance and the French and Russian Alliance, and that this proposal was accepted by the Russian Emperor and Count Witte. After detailing in an earlier chapter a proposal of the German Emperor for an offensive economic alliance between Russia and Germany against the United States, Count Witte refers to his so-called league of nations proposal. In 1905 Count Witte saw the German ruler on his way to Russia after negotiating the Treaty of Portsmouth, and their talk assumed a serious aspect.

"Having referred briefly to my success at Portsmouth," says Witte, "he turned to the general political situation in Europe and reverted to our Petersburg conversation. I reiterated my profound belief in the desirability of a general rapprochement of the three main bodies of Europe—Russia, Germany and France—this rapprochement tending to become a close union, which of course would be joined by other European Powers. Delivered from the burden of military expenditures, Europe would be enabled to create a mighty naval force which would dominate the world. His Majesty assured me that he shared my views and then declared that my scheme had finally been carried into effect at his meeting with Emperor Nicholas at Bjorkoe. Having imparted to me this extraordinary piece of news, his Majesty asked me whether I was satisfied with this development, and in my innocence I replied that his words had filled my heart with joy. We parted."

Upon his arrival in St. Petersburg (Petrograd) Count Witte had an interview with Emperor Nicholas. "His Majesty told me," writes the Count, "that he had received a letter from Emperor William, in which the German sovereign spoke of me in admiring terms. He was glad, he added, that I shared the views which were the foundation of his agreement with Germany, concluded at Bjorkoe. The text of the mysterious agreement, however, his Majesty did not show me."

"The next day I met Count Lamsdorff, our Minister of Foreign Affairs. After the customary greetings and congratulations he asked me, his voice vibrant with ill-controlled indignation: 'Do you really approve of the Bjorkoe treaty?'"

"I confessed that I had not seen it, whereupon he handed me the text of the document, saying that he had received it only on the previous day and bidding me read it. The Count looked profoundly excited and upset. As I read the document I understood the cause of his excitement. The substance of the agreement was that Germany and Russia obligated themselves to defend each other in case of war with any other European Power (including France). Russia pledged itself to make every effort to gain France over to this union (but whether this result was attained, the agreement between the two countries was, nevertheless, valid).

"This is monstrous," I exclaimed. The treaty dishonors us in the eyes of France. Is it possible that all this has been concocted without you and that you knew nothing about it?"

"Count Lamsdorff repeated that until the preceding day he had been kept in complete ignorance of the matter. 'Does not his Majesty know that we have a treaty with France,' I asked."

"Of course his Majesty knows that," he replied, "but the fact must have slipped his mind or, what is more probable, his brain was beguiled by William's verbiage and he failed to grasp the substance of the matter."

"We put our heads together to find a way out of the difficulty," he said. "It was through the influence of Count Witte and Count Lamsdorff that the treaty was eventually abrogated, according to the memoirs."

STAND BY SIMONS IS LAID TO FEAR OF MONARCHIST PLOT

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to explain why his escape to Holland was not a desertion but an action inspired by the Kaiser's desire to do his country the greatest service in his power to do. A one time adjutant, the Kaiser's favorite pastor and many of his advisers and one time officers have found the courage, after months of silence, to lead openly this propaganda work.

To what extent the Kaiser has personally directed this movement, no one can judge from Berlin, but it was said on good authority that the Kaiser himself had written a pamphlet in defence of his pre-war policy and that this pamphlet was privately circulated in Germany. The theme of the booklet is a familiar one—that the Kaiser did not wish for the war—and he further embellished his contention with the statement that he was the first person to propose a League of Nations.

This pamphlet was said to have been distributed through the office of the Lord Chancellor (Hofmeister), while Prof. Theodor Scheldemann was reported to have written an introduction to it. Prof. Scheldemann when questioned, however, denied he had ever heard of such a booklet and professed to believe that it must have been confused with a pamphlet he himself had written in defence of the Kaiser's policy.

Ex-Kaiser's Aids on Duty Yet.

The Lord Chancellor's office is still in existence. It has remained in the palace at the head of the Unter den Linden, occupying its old quarters as if Wilhelm II. still had his residence there. At least two ante-chambers and a large suite of rooms on the ground floor of the palace were given over, it was explained, to the management of the Kaiser's estate pending a settlement of the estate by the Prussian Government.

There are the same employees, with the same court titles, at work and the same lackeys carrying about the same old portfolios bearing the same old royal crest. This is going on in the heart of Berlin in the palace where revolutionary marines were quartered and fought only two years ago. It was from here that the Kaiser's booklet was said to have been distributed.

The search by THE NEW YORK HERALD correspondent here to find out something definite about this booklet led him from a subaltern to the department of the chief baron, who unctuously agreed to telephone to the Minister of the royal house in person so the correspondent might be convinced that no such booklet existed. And then his Excellency the Minister chimed in with the rest that the Kaiser never had written a defence of his policies, and that, therefore, they never distributed one.

It is popularly supposed that the Kaiser's palace is now a republican museum because some of its garnet walled galleries are open to the public on certain days. In one room, a guide will explain, were held the Kaiser's balls and entertainments in the evening; here the Empress received on official days, and there the Emperor addressed the Reichstag during the famous session in August, 1914.

A visitor to the palace gains the impression that he is delving into a

past which has been removed by an unalterable destiny, but under the same roof is the busy Minister of the royal house and his baronial colleagues and their staff of court councillors, secretaries and lackeys, openly conducting the royal affairs, possibly even to the point of distributing a little green covered booklet written by his absent Majesty, and hoping meanwhile that the museum may be closed and the palace devoted to less republican purposes than it is now.

Royalist Upheaval Unlikely.

Although the German royalists have recovered from their fright of 1918 and the Conservatives continue to register comfortable gains in each succeeding election, military monarchist upheavals are not to be read between the lines in news reports of German domestic and political occurrences at present. This may be believed, in spite of the fact that the royalists control the German courts and not a single prominent offender in the Kapp revolt has as yet been put in prison.

However, hundreds of workers who fought either innocently against the disloyal Reichswehr (imperial defence troops) or actively for Communist ends have received severe jail sentences, and the labor press complains loudly and continually against the class of justice dealt out by the German courts. Theodore Wolff writing in the Tageblatt remarks as a reproach of the Conservatives that servant girls, credulous pensioners and other unthinking voters are hoodwinked by the dishonest campaign arguments.

However that may be, the German Nationalist People's party, the extremist monarchist body, in the Prussian elections last month polled 2,000,000 votes and the German People's party, with a more moderate monarchist platform, more than 2,500,000 votes. Thus 32 per cent of all the Prussian voters are avowed monarchist in principle, as against 40 per cent. anti-monarchist in the parties of the Majority Socialists, the Independent Socialists and the Communists. Among the royalists are some of the most important business leaders in Germany—men of the stamp of Hugo Stinnes—and the rank and file includes a great number of lawyers, school teachers, and owners, shopkeepers and discharged army officers. Even some labor leaders and many union members are enrolled in the royalist ranks.

Majority for a Monarchy.

If a referendum could be taken in Germany on the abstract question of a monarchy or a republic without the immediate result on local and foreign affairs being considered the monarchists probably would obtain a small majority. The Catholics are not republican in principle and the same can be said even of the Democrats, whose leaders lately let it be known that they were concerned more about the parliamentary nature than the precise form of their Government.

But it is impossible to face the Germans with such a detached choice. A restoration in the near future would necessarily be the outcome of a reactionary coup d'etat, and such a thing would be answered by a labor revolt, unless the reactionaries are

nearer the public sentiment than the republican government.

Labor has the only reliable organization to defend the republic, so that a counter revolution to be successful would have to promise more in the interest of labor than the existing regime, either in the form of popular reforms or a share in power or a popular war.

Since the Kapp rebellion this situation has been clear to all the royalist leaders. They have tried to meet it in one of two ways. The militarist faction, as distinguished from the parliamentary faction, preached national Bolshevism. Bolshevism was widely discussed last summer, when a Russian victory in Poland was expected, and the talk was revived in Bavaria this winter.

But the militarists are mostly impetuous personalities with a craving for quick results, and their doctrine has not made headway either among the conservatives of greater experience or labor. Even Gen. Ludendorff has worn out his welcome in Bavaria to the point where a powerful Bavarian peasants' league recently passed a resolution applying for an order to oust "Prussian counter-revolutionary rowdies." The rest of the so-called men of 1914 are less energetic and consider it more tactful to maintain a constitutional facade.

By their own statements they do not expect a monarchy to be established except if it became noised about that the Conservative leaders in the Reichstag would support a rebellion again if the Government signed a reparations agreement going beyond the German judgment of what it is possible to pay.

Chances for a Revolution.

Quite often the imminence of a restoration in Germany is confused with the possibility of a coup d'etat. The fact is that a counter revolution could be temporarily successful at any moment. The Reichswehr is loyal to the core; the Bavarian divisions, composed of hundreds of thousands of drilled members, are for the most part royalists. Various societies of war veterans and home guards are ready to join the standard of any movement promising to overthrow the republic. The Government is as weakly defended as in the days of Kapp, for it still has no authority by which it could induce the Reichswehr to fight men with whom they are in the closest sympathy.

Dr. Kapp occupied Berlin with 5,000 soldiers. The only rebellion against which the republic is safeguarded would be one attempted by the Communists. The Germans acknowledge that they had not established the republic through inner conviction.

Professor Scheldemann's diary portrays how the Cabinet before the Kaiser's abdication measured his going solely as a step required by President Wilson and the Allies, and not one demanded by the Germans for freedom at home. Nor have the vicissitudes of Germany since 1918 or the treatment accorded to the republic at the hands of the Allies made the new form of government seem practicable.

Even the Democratic party, which courageously set out to be a new liberal haven in the old Prussian loaf, has lost its vitality. The Democratic policy introduced under foreign inspiration seems to have needed foreign support to maintain itself.

The Germans now say that they are in the position of having to adopt

outside advice about home affairs instead of judging these affairs on their merits. So the only genuine republicans left are the majority Socialists, who were republicans in principle before the war. But the republic is holding out because it proves to be serviceable as an organ for the expression of public opinion. It promises to remain until a more popular substitute is proposed.

Unless the present standards change and if a new war does not develop the only durable substitute is admitted to be a democratic monarchy. This could be established only under the one condition that the majority of the workers would not paralyze the country with a general strike. Gen. Ludendorff, Baron Luetwitz and Capt. Ehrhardt, it is foreseen, are not going to risk such failure by crowning a Hohenzollern with the restricted powers of the King of England. They are the real counter revolutionists.

NEAR EAST PUZZLE NEARING A SOLUTION

Turkish Head Sees Settlement in Sight.

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Bekir Samy Bey, head of the Turkish Nationalist delegation at the London conference on the Sevres treaty, told THE NEW YORK HERALD correspondent tonight that he believed a settlement of the Near East problem was possible following the conference, though not on the terms handed him Saturday. He denies that the Turkish Nationalist Assembly is discussing the terms, or is likely to decide on a rejection before the mission returns to Angora, which will not be for some time.

"The question of Thrace and Smyrna is irreducible as far as the Turks are concerned," he said, "but the Entente has already admitted both of these demands in principle in increasing our influence in Smyrna, and promising that Constantinople will not be taken from us. If they concede the legitimacy of our interests in Smyrna the only logical development is that the Greeks get out. If they concede our rights to Constantinople we must have Thrace, for Constantinople is not safe a minute with the Greeks only thirty kilometers away."

"We are perfectly willing to settle respecting the two principle points the British set forth—liberty of the straits and the protection of minorities."

Bekir Samy Bey is of the belief that he can still win more for Kemal than was decided here Saturday, and this is responsible for his determination to stay in London some days before going to Paris.

He believes he can induce the statesmen who have already in effect scrapped the Sevres treaty to rewrite it more in accord with the wishes of the Turks. He attributes to Armenian and Greek propaganda the reports current here tonight that the Nationalist Assembly is already considering the London decisions and is likely to reject them. "We are in direct touch with Angora almost hourly," he said. "We know they have not yet received our report sent yesterday. Hence they cannot discuss it."

The Near East conference is off until Bekir Samy Bey gets back from Angora. "The Greeks alone are sticking out," he said.

LABOR EXPULSION ILLEGAL.

Action of Canadian Congress Against Rail Men Overruled.

TORONTO, March 14.—The executive council of the Trades and Labor Congress acted without authority when it ordered the expulsion of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees from the congress, Justice Rose ruled here today.

The court declared the council had no right to expel a body which had been recognized as a member of the congress without the question being first raised within the congress itself. The executive council acted against the brotherhood because of affiliations which the council considered undesirable.

PRICES realized on Swift & Company sales of carcass beef in New York City for week ending Saturday, March 12th, 1921, on shipments sold out, ranged from 14.50 cents to 18.00 cents per pound and averaged 16.60 cents per pound.—APR.

ITALY'S KING SENDS MEDAL TO MISS HOLT

Ambassador Bears Thanks for Work Among Blind.

In behalf of King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, who is interested in the education of the blind, Rolando Ricci, Italian Ambassador to the United States, presented yesterday to Miss Winifred Holt, founder of the Lighthouse, at 111 East Fifty-ninth street, a gold medal. The ceremony took place at Miss Holt's educational centre for the blind.

The Ambassador, who told of the King's appreciation of the work Miss Holt did among the blind of Italy during the war, dictated a letter to a blind girl who took it down on a braille machine, Madelon Viduro, a little blind girl, whose parents are Italian, presented the Ambassador with a basket woven coat hanger which she had made at the Lighthouse.

Among those at the reception to the Ambassador were Mrs. Finley J. Shepard, Mrs. L. W. Hewitt, Mrs. Quattrone and Judge Freschi, who acted as interpreter.

ACTRESS HELD FOR PISTOL.

Mrs. E. Harrison, an actress, who fired a shot at two men at the door of her room in the Hotel de France, was arrested yesterday on a charge of violating the Sullivan law in having a pistol. She waived examination in the West Side Court and was held in \$500 bail.

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